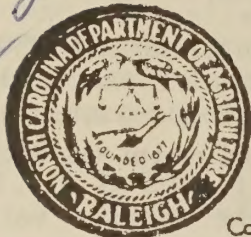


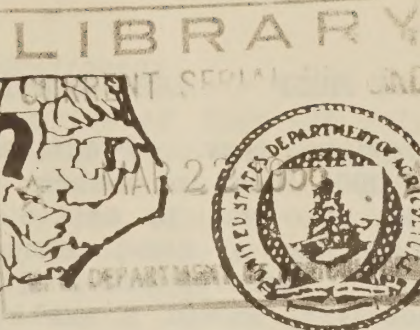
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



No. 202

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 23, 1956

SMALLER CATTLE NUMBERS: HOGS UNCHANGED

More Sheep - - Less Workstock

Total cattle on North Carolina farms as of January 1, 1956 is estimated at 955,000 head. This number is short of the all-time high record inventory of 995,000 for January 1, 1954 (revised) by four percent. It is, however, 26 percent above the 1945-54 ten-year average of 757,000. This is the second consecutive year since 1949 that cattle inventories have failed to show an increase over the

(Continued On Page 2)

Milk Production Sets New Record In 1955

Milk production in North Carolina in 1955 amounted to 1,683,000,000 pounds according to the latest estimate. This was the highest annual output on record, exceeding the previous high (established in 1953) by 6,000,000 pounds. Although the average number of milk cows on farms during the year, estimated at 358,000, was less than for any year since 1951, a record total. Milk flow was attained

(Continued On Page 3)

HORSES AND MULES ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS AS OF JANUARY 1

1940 - 1956



MORE SHEEP - - LESS WORKSTOCK (Continued)

previous year. Practically all of the 30,000 loss in numbers from January a year ago was in cattle kept for milk. There was no great change in total beef cattle numbers, and beef cows and steers actually showed a small increase, with the 7,000 loss coming from young heifers, other calves and bulls. Cattle kept for milk dropped from 566,000 to 543,000, a reduction of 23,000.

Hogs on farms this year at 1,276,000 are the same as for the January 1 estimate a year ago. This inventory is 8.5 percent above the ten-year average of 1,176,000. By age groups pigs numbered 750,000, a decrease of 41,000 from the previous year. Sows and gilts were short of last year's number by 2,000, but other hogs six months old and over increased by 43,000, thus offsetting the loss in the inventory of pigs and sows.

Sheep and lambs as of January 1, 1956 were estimated at 53,000. This number was 2,000 above the estimate for 1955 (revised) and 11,000 above the 1945-54 ten-year average.

Workstock on farms at the first of the year continued to show a decrease, the number for this year being placed at 236,000 as compared to 248,000 for a year earlier, a reduction of about five percent and a drop from the ten-year average of approximately 31 percent.

Inventories of chickens on farms as of January 1 (excluding commercial broilers) were estimated at 12,523,000, a relatively small increase over the 12,389,000 reported for the first of 1955. Hens and pullets increased by 65,000 and other chickens increased by 69,000.

Turkeys (excluding "fryers or broilers") on farms as of January 1 were placed at 65,000, an increase of 1,000 over the number for a year earlier. The average inventory for 1945 through 1954 is 50,000.

Livestock Values

The total value of all cattle on North Carolina Farms as of January 1, 1956 is estimated at \$66,850,000 or about six percent more than for a year earlier. Even though numbers were less the greater value arose from a change from \$64.00 to \$70.00 average value per head.

Hogs, though unchanged in numbers, showed a 28 percent drop from the previous year in value because of a very sharp drop in average value. Estimated value as of January 1 was \$23,351,000 and aver-

age value per head was \$18.30 as compared to \$25.30 for a year ago.

An increase in inventories of sheep resulted in a total first of year value three percent greater than for January 1, 1955. Current estimate of value is \$853,000. Value per head was placed at \$16.10, only a dime short of the average value last year.

Chickens on farms January 1 were valued at \$14,401,000, an increase of 16 percent over last year. Average value each was placed at \$1.15 as compared to \$1.00 last year. Average value of turkeys at \$5.30 each was unchanged from last year but a total value of \$344,000 was up 1.5 percent from last year because of a change in inventory.

Horses and mules suffered a loss both in average value and total value. Average value at \$90.00 was down \$2.00 from last year and a decrease in numbers brought their total value as of January 1 down to \$21,240,000, a decrease from the previous year of seven percent.

RECORD JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in North Carolina during January 1956 is estimated at 130 million. This is by far the highest January output on record, and it is 13 million eggs, or 11 percent, above the 117 million produced in January of 1955 when the next highest lay for the month was reported.

The average number of layers for January on hand in the state is placed at 9,099,000. This was only three percent above the 8,846,000 (revised) on hand a year earlier. A rate of lay of 14.3 eggs per bird, however, as compared to a rate of 13.2 last year was largely responsible for the heavy increase in production.

Meanwhile, farm flocks in the United States laid 5,161 million eggs in January one percent less than in January 1955, but seven percent above the 1945-54 average. Egg production was at record high levels in the South Atlantic and Western States, but it was below last year in all other parts of the country.

The United States rate of production in January was 15.6 eggs per layer as compared with 15.5 a year ago and a 1945-54 January average of 12.9. The Nation's laying flock averaged about 331 million layers in January - - two percent less than in January last year and 13 percent under the 10-year average.

MILK PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORDS IN 1955 (Continued)

through the all-time high production of 4,700 pounds of milk per cow. The average per cow was 180 pounds above the next highest, reached in 1954.

REVISED ESTIMATES OF MILK COW NUMBERS,
PRODUCTION PER COW,
AND TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION BY MONTHS IN
NORTH CAROLINA FOR 1954 AND 1955

Month	Milk Cows On Farms		Production Per Cow		Total Production	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Lbs.</i>	
Jan.	375	364	342	360	128	131
Feb.	374	363	320	330	120	120
Mar.	373	362	360	374	134	135
Apr.	372	361	388	410	144	148
May	371	360	425	440	158	158
June	370	359	412	413	152	148
July	370	358	420	423	155	151
Aug.	369	357	407	432	150	154
Sept.	368	356	381	412	140	147
Oct.	367	355	367	382	135	136
Nov.	366	354	347	352	127	125
Dec.	365	353	353	368	129	130
Year	*370	*358	4520	4700	1672	1683

* Average of monthly estimates.

With the exception of June and July, monthly milk production per cow established new records for each month of 1955. For June and July the 1955 per cow production has been exceeded only by comparable production in 1949 and 1950.

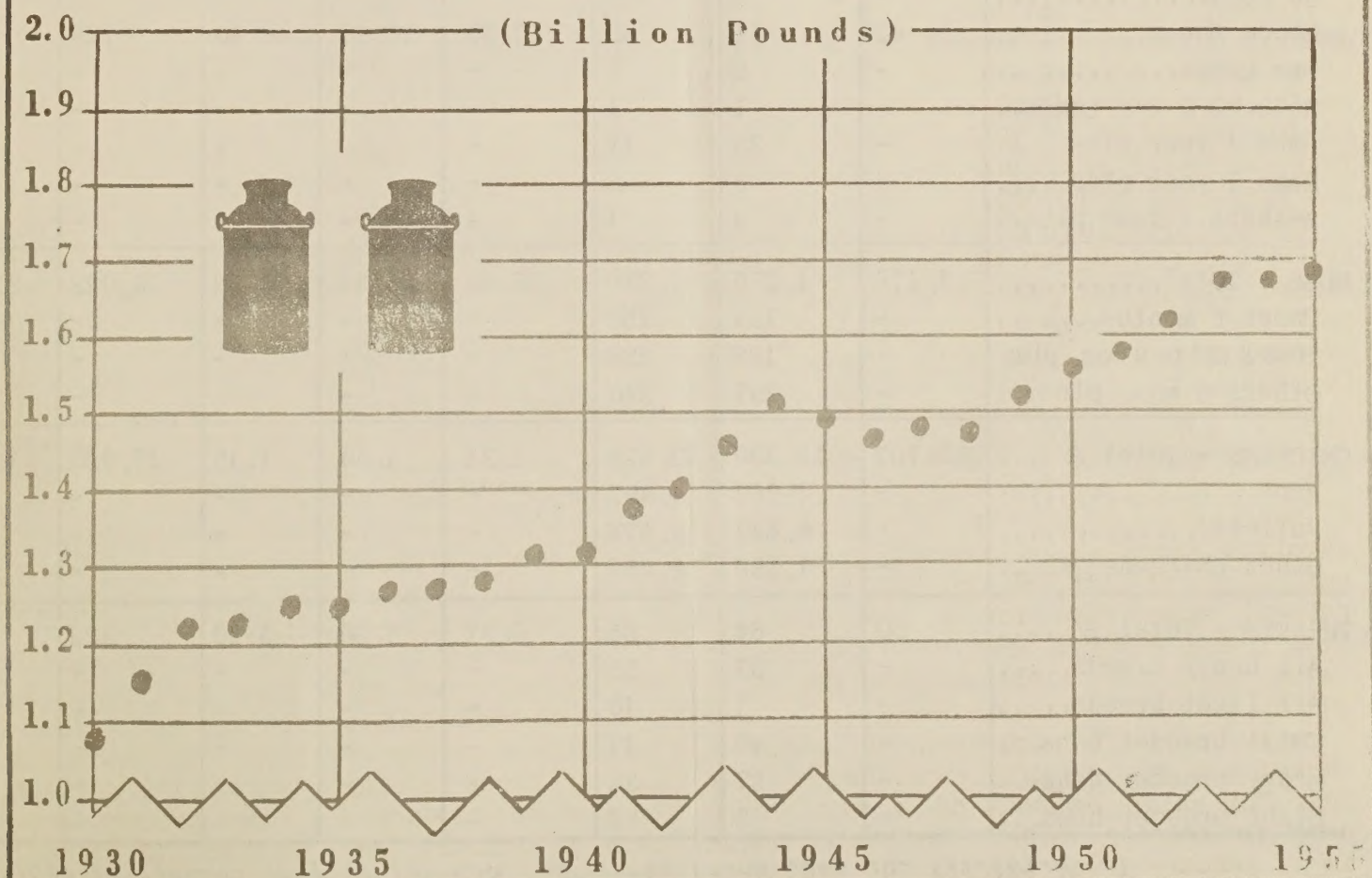
On an annual basis, total milk production has shown an almost steady increase since the first record in 1924 when the estimate was reported at 1,050,000,000 pounds. By 1940 the production had passed 1,300,000,000 pounds, and for last year the output at 1,683,000,000 pounds was about 56 percent above that 25 years earlier.

Milk produced on farms in the United States totaled 123,454,000,000 pounds. This was an all-time high annual output and it was one percent above the revised estimate of 122,094,000,000 pounds produced the year before. The 1955 record production was three percent above the turn-out a decade earlier and 23 percent above the 1925-39 average.

First monthly estimates for 1956 places the January production of milk in North Carolina at 133,000,000 pounds. This is the highest January production of record.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

1930 - 1955



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS: INVENTORY NUMBERS AND VALUES ON JANUARY 1 - NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

SPECIES AND CLASSIFICATION	NORTH CAROLINA									UNITED STATES								
	Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value			Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value		
	1945-54 Average	1955 Revised	1956 Prel.	1945-54 Average	1955	1956	1945-54 Average	1955 Revised	1956 Prel.	1945-54 Average	1955 Revised	1956 Prel.	1945-54 Average	1955	1956	1945-54 Average	1955 Revised	1956 Prel.
	<i>THOUSAND HEAD</i>			<i>DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND HEAD</i>			<i>DOLLARS</i>			<i>THOUSAND DOLLARS</i>		
HORSES AND MULES -Total	343	248	236	162.00	92.00	90.00	57,102	22,816	21,240	8,212	4,309	3,962	66.70	56.20	62.60	574,186	242,104	247,939
2 years plus.....	-	244	232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,101	3,763	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 2 years old....	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CATTLE - Total.....	757	985	955	92.80	64.00	70.00	70,260	63,040	66,850	84,040	96,592	97,465	118.00	88.20	88.00	9,862,798	8,517,027	8,581,370
Milk Stock:.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,361	34,877	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cows & Heifers 2yrs. plus.	379	391	383	120.00	83.00	90.00	45,247	32,453	34,470	24,654	23,462	23,318	171.00	134.00	139.00	4,159,767	3,148,392	3,235,106
Heifers 1 - 2 years..	79	88	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,681	5,786	5,492	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifer Calves.....	88	87	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,334	6,113	6,067	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Cattle: <u>1</u> /.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,231	62,588	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cows 2 years plus....	-	185	190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,659	25,758	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers 1 - 2 years..	-	73	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,514	6,293	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calves.....	-	107	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,785	19,106	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steers 1 year plus...	-	33	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,444	9,644	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulls 1 year plus....	-	21	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,829	1,787	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP - Total.....	42	51	53	17.30	16.20	16.10	728	826	853	34,736	31,582	31,109	-	-	-	551,754	471,490	443,841
On feed.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,445	4,100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock Sheep.....	42	51	53	17.30	16.20	16.10	728	826	853	29,941	27,137	27,009	16.40	14.90	14.30	474,547	403,524	365,375
Ewe Lambs.....	-	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,982	3,842	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wethers & Ram Lambs..	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	740	674	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ewes 1 year plus.....	-	38	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,321	21,439	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rams 1 year plus.....	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	860	842	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wethers 1 year plus..	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	234	212	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOGS - Total.....	1,176	1,276	1,276	25.40	25.30	18.30	29,928	32,283	23,351	56,853	50,474	55,088	31.50	30.60	17.70	1,776,657	1,542,285	977,165
Under 6 months.....	-	791	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,906	33,520	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sows & Gilts 6 mos. plus	-	188	186	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,063	8,900	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others 6 mos. plus...	-	297	340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,505	12,668	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHICKENS - Total <u>2</u> /....	12,707	12,389	12,523	1.34	1.00	1.15	17,050	12,389	14,401	449,649	390,708	382,218	1.42	1.05	1.26	636,056	410,741	480,399
Hens.....	-	4,361	4,492	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111,376	121,527	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pullets.....	-	6,640	6,574	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	257,219	238,169	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Chickens <u>2</u> /....	-	1,388	1,457	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,113	22,522	-	-	-	-	-	-
TURKEYS - Total <u>3</u> /.....	50	64	65	6.37	5.30	5.30	322	339	344	5,533	4,917	4,892	6.61	5.33	5.50	36,071	26,185	26,898
All heavy breeds.....	-	57	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,092	4,120	-	-	-	-	-	-
All light breeds.....	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	825	772	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total breeder hens...	-	40	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,012	3,212	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heavy breeder hens...	-	37	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,479	2,719	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light breeder hens...	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	533	493	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Primarily for beef purposes. 2/ Does not include commercial broilers. 3/ Does not include turkey fryers.

SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Based on intentions reports received from spring cabbage producers in North Carolina, the 1956 late spring crop will total about 2,400 acres. If growers carry out their present intentions, the 1956 crop will be 14 percent above the harvested acreage last year and about 11 percent above the 10-year average crop. The 1955 harvested acreage was considerably below the planted acreage last year due to heavy damage by the late March freeze, so the intended acreage for 1956 is equal to the acreage planted in 1955.

The prospective for the seven late spring producing states in 1956 is 10,420 acres -- 13 percent more than the acreage for harvest last year but 5 percent below average.

LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

STATE	ACREAGE		
	Average 1949-54	1955	Indi- cated 1956
	<i>ACRES</i>		
N. CAROLINA.	2,170	2,100	2,400
Virginia....	2,280	2,400	2,500
Tennessee...	3,290	2,100	2,800
Kentucky....	380	150	120
Maryland....	1,250	900	900
Missouri....	1,010	1,000	1,100
Ohio, S. E..	570	550	600
Group Total.	10,940	9,200	10,420

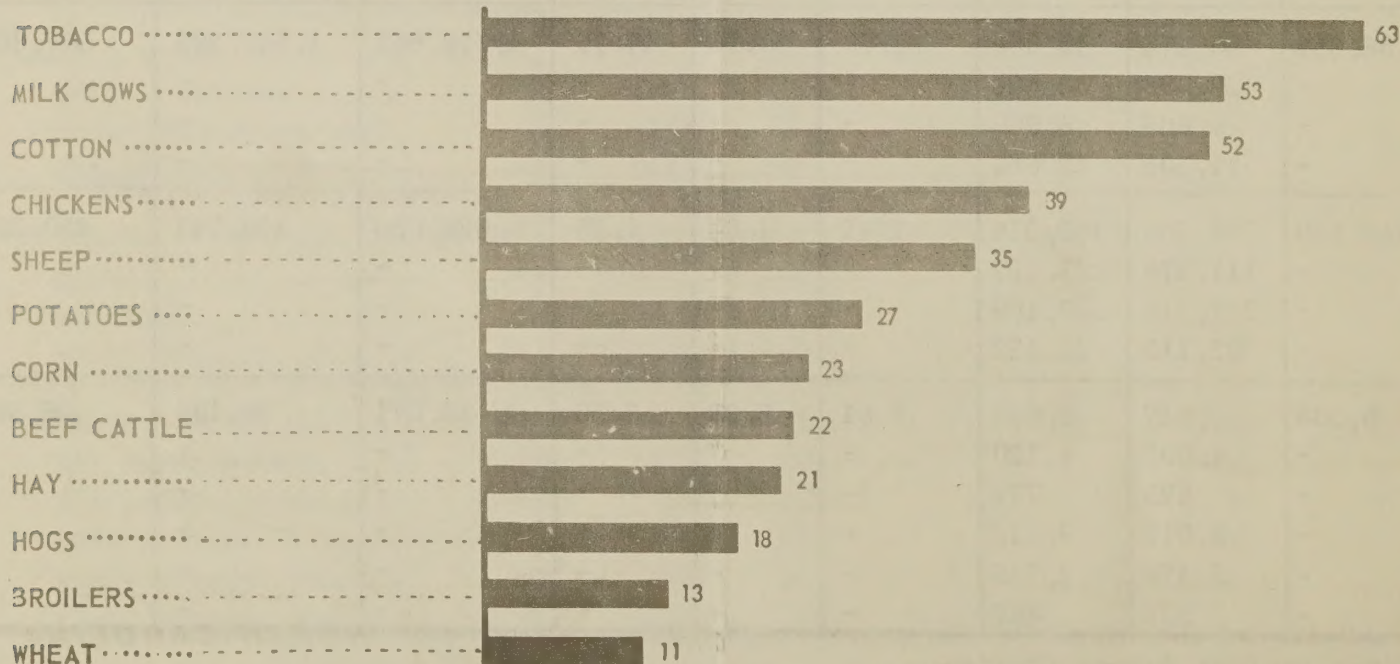
FARM LABOR

There were 5,541,000 persons at work on farms in the United States during the week of January 22-28. This was 547,000 less than a month earlier. Family workers accounted for 4,629,000 of the total and hired workers the remaining 912,000. Both groups of workers decreased in numbers by more than the usual percentage. The number of family workers decreased 8 percent while the number of hired workers dropped 15 percent.

In comparison with a year earlier, the number of persons working on farms in late January 1956 was 248,000 less, a drop of 4 percent. The number of family workers decreased 5 percent but the number of hired workers showed a slight increase.

As usual at this time of the year, farm work was generally slack in most parts of the country and many farmers were doing only necessary chores. Temperatures averaged above normal in New England and in an area from the Mississippi River westward over the Southern Rockies to Central California. In the remainder of the country, temperatures averaged below normal and the weather was mostly too cold for outside work. Rainfall was moderate to heavy in the Pacific Coast States, in Nevada and Utah, and in the southeastern part of the country. Rain or snow fell in most other areas except West Texas and Southern New Mexico but generally totaled less than a half inch.

Wide Range in Man-Hours Per \$100 of Production, 1955



N. C. HONEY PRODUCTION SHARPLY OFF

Because of adverse weather and a poor flow of nectar, honey production in North Carolina amounted to only 3,477,000 pounds during 1955, a 31 percent reduction from the 5,018,000 pound output for 1954. Producing colonies of bees in 1955 totaled 183,000 as compared to 193,000 colonies the year before. Average production per colony amounted to only 19 pounds, the lowest since 1950.

Beekeepers received and estimated aver-

age 33.6 cents per pound for the 1955 crop as compared to a price of 32.7 cents per pound for the 1954 crop. The 1955 crop is valued at \$1,168,000 as compared to \$1,641,000 for the 1954 crop.

For the United States, 1955 honey production amounted to 253 million pounds, 17 percent more than was produced in 1954. Honey production per colony was 47.7 pounds compared with 39.8 pounds in 1954 and a 1949-53 average of 43.7 pounds.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY

Offshore low pressure dominated North Carolina weather during a great deal of January, with the result that northerly winds were unusually persistent. This caused heavy cloudiness along the immediate coast, while inland sections received more sunshine. The sunniest areas were in the piedmont. Considerable cloudiness was maintained in most mountain areas by cold, damp northerly winds flowing down out of the Great Lakes area; these winds shed their moisture as light snow flurries in the mountains, and flowed down over the Piedmont as rather dry, fair-weather winds. The winds were cold in all sections, and precipitation was light except on the outer banks.

Heavy cloudiness and persistent northerly winds made the weather unusually cold in eastern North Carolina during January. The average temperature on the outer banks at Hatteras was eight degrees below that of an average January, and the offshore waters were reported as uncommonly cold. The North Carolina Mountains also had temperatures below normal, ranging as much as four degrees below normal at most points. The Piedmont area had

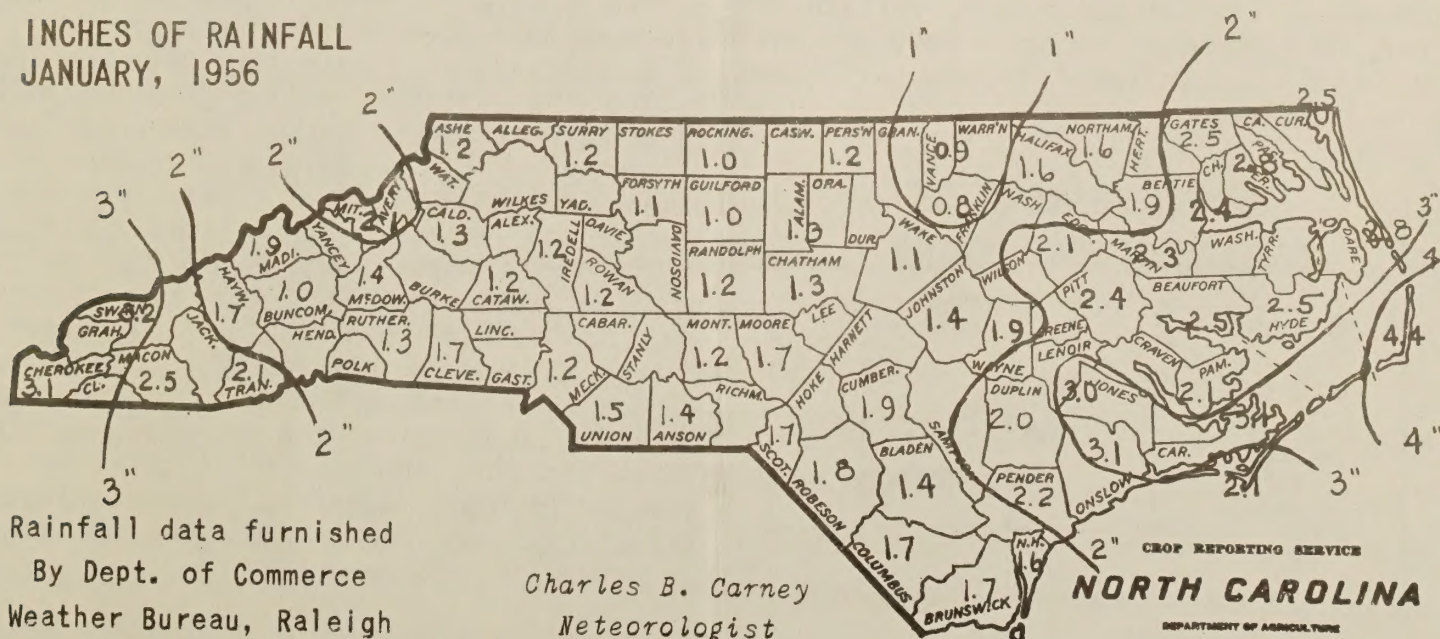
considerably more sunshine and more moderate temperatures; the average in Charlotte and Winston-Salem was only 1.5 degrees below normal.

January was consistently cold except for a few days around the 3rd, again around the 12th, and once more around the 30th, when the mercury reached the 60s briefly. The coldest nights reached the 20s or below in all sections.

January was dry in all sections of North Carolina except the outer banks, where Hatteras reported 4.41 inches of rainfall, just about normal for the month. The northeastern quarter of the State in general received from two to three inches, as did the western and southern slopes of the Mountains. Elsewhere in the State, totals for the month were generally less than two inches. Even in the drier portions of the State, rain fell in small quantities on ten or more days.

Snow fell in the northeastern sections on six different days, and in the Mountains on twice as many, but amounts were small in all cases, and total snowfall very light compared with that of January 1955.

INCHES OF RAINFALL JANUARY, 1956



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
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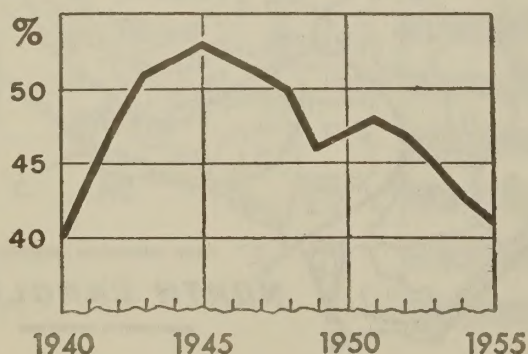
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FARMER'S SHARE OF FOOD DOLLAR DROPS

The farmer's share of the consumer's retail food dollar has dropped steadily from a record high of 53 percent in 1945 to 41 percent in 1955. In December 1955 the farmer was getting only 38 percent, or about the same share he got in 1939. Consumers are spending more dollars for food, but farmers' receipts have not kept up with this increase because of higher marketing costs.

**FARMER'S SHARE OF THE
CONSUMER'S FOOD DOLLAR**



The farmer, of course, sells many things besides food -- cotton, tobacco, and wool, for instance. And some of the food products can be turned to other uses such as alcohol or starch. Also, some foods have byproducts, such as hides, but in the series of figures on the food dollar allowances have been made for this.

A statistical picture of what can be called the 'market basket' is the cost of a typical family market basket of food products of U. S. farms. It does not include imported foods or fishery products. The retail value of this fixed quantity of foods is worked out. Then the value of the same quantity at farm prices, leaving out the byproducts is computed.

The difference between the farm value of the market basket and what the consumer pays for it is called the marketing margin. This includes the costs of processors, transportation agencies, wholesalers, retailers, and others who move the food from farms to the consumer.